FREE
Issue 4

POWER To The PEOPLE

A Forum For Revolutionary Thought

African People Unite

We are dedicated to the people. We demand the complete liberation of our people from all forms of oppression. We will continue to oppose all exploiters and reactionaries until our people are completely free. When our people can lay claim to our rightful legacy and enjoy the dignity of our humanity, then we will be free. We also know that freedom is never given; it is taken by force. Africans can have this force if we have power. Power comes from the mind grasping and using information. We are dedicated to bringing this information to the people. We are dedicated to bringing Power to the People.

COPS DO THE DIRTY WORK

by Dee Baptiste

The fight against the ROM is much deeper than most of us have realized. To many it seemed that the Coalition for the Truth about Africa (CFTA) was just fighting the ROM. Now we see the truth. The Racist Ontario Museum has recently turned to the cops to do their dirty work for them. Since May 5 eleven people have been arrested in connection with the ROM. Make no mistake about it, these charges are political. The charges are groundless and have been trumped up to deal a blow against our struggle.

Our people must realize the extent of this battle. Not only do our people struggle against the museum, they also have to contend with the brutal police, a hostile press and corrupt politicians.

The Break-down

1. The ROM wants to put up a racist exhibit which degrades and denies the humanity and self-respect of African (Black) people. Since the community opposes this institutional racism, the ROM has to silence all critics.

2. Enter the police. They arrest our brothers and sisters who are exercising their legal rights to protest injustice. During the arrests our people are assaulted and injured by the cops. Sisters taken into custody are embarrassed and degraded by having to suffer through strip-searches. Brothers are intimidated by verbal threats and "promises" of what the future will bring.

3. The press then jump in and claim that our people are violent and the cops are just doing their jobs. They show pictures of policemen with bruises and cuts. They don't show you the cops drawing their guns on unarmed protesters, or brothers beaten so badly they require hospital treatment for internal bleeding.

4. The rest of the "justice" system then comes to support both the cops and the ROM. The ROM asks for an injunction and gets one put through in only 2 days. You try getting anything done at court in just 2 days. For anyone but the ROM it's impossible.

5. Finally the politicians get into the battle. They allow racism to run rampant through our society. Each time an incident happens they propose studies and talks. We've been talking since Buddy Evans right through to Marlon Neal and now the ROM 11.

The relationship between these racist institutions is clear. As a community we must see what is really identify our enemy. The fight is at the same time one against the ROM, the cops, the courts and the government. It seems we've got the whole of this racist society stacked against us. But that ain't new, or news.

What will be news is when we get together and support each other in the fight. The CFTA has been calling on the community for quite some time now. They need help. They've got trumped up charges to fight, a civil suit from the ROM to deal with and bills to pay from trying to spread the word about racism in Toronto. The next few weeks are very important. There's a rally on the 7th, an educational forum on the 12th and a mass demonstration on the 14th. Support them however you can. Call the CFTA at 978-6636.

JUSTICE FOR THE ROM 11

Inside... Save Mumia Abu-Jamal

Editorial

Look out Toronto it's going to be hot this summer, no matter what the thermometer says. Tempers have reached the boiling point and the powder keg situation of this city seems ready to explode.

All the factors are there. The masses of our people have realized that Toronto the Good isn't too good to us. In previous years our people took abuse and hatred and gave back love and compassion. Now we reject that method. Some of our brothers have decided to fight back. And fight strong. The white press calls them vigilantes. We know that they're just people who've had enough.

But you know, it's been said that the fight only really begins when the women get upset. The mothers, sisters and daughters of our community are tired of seeing their people oppressed—remember it was a sister who started the much needed Black Lifeline project. So now it looks like the stage is set. Our people have taken enough abuse and are calling for some real justice.

Let's hope that when things cool down again we really did get what we want. But what do we really want? This summer we at Power to the People want to find out what you think our struggle is really all about and how it should be fought.

So go on out and enjoy yourself this summer. Keep up the fight sisters and brothers. But be careful. If you're going to do anything at all, make sure you've got someone to watch your back. If you take on the system by yourself, they'll take you out by yourself -- and no one will know. You've got to keep fighting and struggling and building and trying to improve conditions for our people. When we stop trying...our people start dying.

PEACE

MALCOLM
ANDELA
ARCUS
ARLEY
ARTIN

The Black Church

The Black Church over all, whether it be in the United States, North America (Canada) or the West Indies has served as the centre of the life of black communities everywhere. But, for the most part, the Black Church is lacking the consciousness of its responsibility to spread the word of Black Pride, giving us a sense of purpose and direction.

One of the first things that the Black Church and we as black people have to realize is that we have been misled. We must remember that we received Christianity as we know it from our slave masters. Thus it is the white man's distorted view of Christianity which has been entrenched in the minds of black men and women.

However, this corruption of Christianity is on its way to changing, especially by young black people who have rejected the so called "right" interpretation of the word of God. But, it is now time, in this period of becoming a Black Nation, for the Black Church to realize the growing significance of becoming conscious of its "African Roots".

As of now, the church must re-interpret its message in terms of the needs of a Black Revolution. We need a new theological position, which is to stop being helpless as black people, always waiting for God to intervene and solve our problems for us. It has to start with the Black Church accepting its role in the Black Revolution, the church has got to understand and interpret revolutionary christianity, making the Revolution apart of our Christian faith.

There are many Black organizations who are dedicated to educating blacks about the truth of our history, but the leading organization, which has the most potential power of educating is the Church.

Many black people have given up the church, but with a new theological stand the church can become "the basis for a new unity in the Black Community", providing strength, and unification of our brothers and sisters. The Church must believe that the purpose of Christianity is to "free Black people and to rid Black people of injustice". That is why the Church is so important to the Black Revolution, a mind revolution of becoming free "by any means necessary".

by Sue Brooks with quotes from "The Black Messiah", By Albert B. Cleage. Jr.

Our hero

by Dee Baptiste

Finally a hero comes town. After being jailed for over a quater of a century, Nelson Mandela finally came to Toronto. It was really something to actually see a living legend. The man who has become the symbol of resistance to apartheid racism came to challenge us all to support the fight agaiunst white South Africa.

Our brothers and sisters in South Africa have been fighting for their lives under the apartheid system. To them, everyday was a test of strength and determination. How to survive without selling out. Nelson Mandela took and passed that test everyday for the past 27 1/2 years.

Canada's role in the struggle was simple; apply economic sanctions. We failed that test. Sanctions in Canada are a joke. Every year since they've been applied, trade between South Africa and Canada has increased.

We should not let Canadian politicians pat themselves on the back and pretend that they're heroes in the anti-apartheid struggle. Mandela came here as a guest of the federal government. Our people had no way to set his agenda. This is a situation that should not be tolerated. Our leaders must speak to and be responsible to us. When Mandela was on Nightline a few weeks ago he said that he would not discuss North American issues until the problems in his own home were solved. We can't afford this, however. Our people don't have anyone powerful in politics to speak for us. We need to have prominent voices such as Mandela's joined with ours.

Apartheid is a horrible crime that we must help fight. We also have problems in our own backyard which need attention. Hopefully conditions will soon change enough for one of our greatest living heroes, Nelson Mandela, to help us to address our North American struggles.

Political Prisoner Sentenced to Death

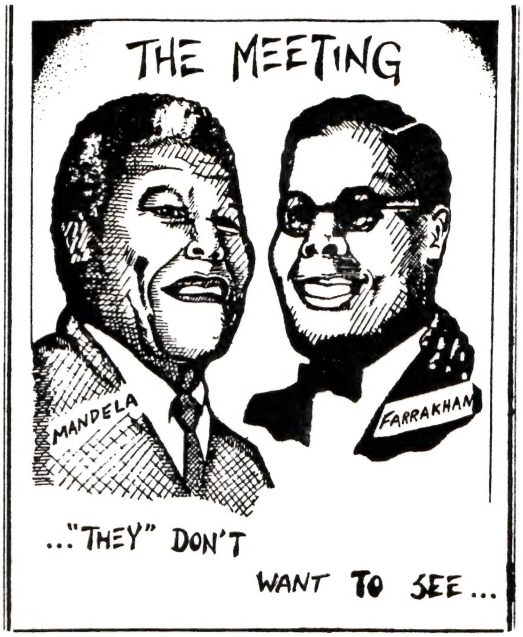
Mumia Abu-Jamal is a U.S. death row political prisoner. A former Black Panther Party spokesman, outspoken MOVE supporter and a journalist called the "voice of the voiceless" for his championing the rights of the oppressed, Brother Jamal has been in the cross hairs of Philadelphia's racist killer cops for 21 years.

Brother Jamal became a supporter of the Philadelphia MOVE organization in the aftermath of the murderous 1978 siege on their Powelton Village home by more than 600 heavily armed cops. In 1985, this cop vendetta culminated in Mayor Wilson Goode's hideous bombing of MOVE, which left eleven, including five children, dead. On 9 December 1981 these same Philadelphia cops tried to kill Brother Jamal in the streets, but failed. He was hospitalized with a bleeding stomach wound, and arrested on charges of killing a cop.

Brother Jamal's trial was a classic racist frame-up. He was denied a the lawyer of his choice and resources to prepare a defense. Of the prospective black jurors all but one were excluded from the jury of twelve because of their race, while admittedly prejudiced white jurors were chosen to decide Brother Jamal's fate. Brother Jamal was convicted of murder by this hand-picked panel. On 3 June 1982, the prosecutor secured the death sentence with the argument that Brother Jamal should be condemned to death simply for his political history and beliefs, claiming that his membership in the Black Panther Party and use of the slogan "power to the people" proved he was a committed cop-killer!

On 1 February 1990 the Pennsylvania Supreme Court denied Brother Jamal's petition to reargue his appeal. The fight to save Brother Jamal is the fight against racist state murder around the world. Save Mumia Abu-Jamal.

article reprinted from the Patisan Defence Committe.



A Man Named X

by Ricky Francis

Malcolm X, born Malcom Little, was one of our most sterotyped leaders, even by his own people. Malcolm X and his doctrines are sorely misunderstood. What were his ideals? What was so radical about Malcolm X? The dictionary defines radical as 'an advocate of extreme change'. If that is so brothers and sisters, then an election is radical. Think about it.

Malcolm's three major teachings were: By any means necessary, Black Nationalism, and the Ballot or the Bullet. Be careful when you interpret these theories.

If someone beats on your head, then you should be allowed to beat him back. If for 400 years the Black man in North America has been suffering because of the white man, then it's about time we do something about it. It's time we fight back. We want our freedom and we're willing to fight for it. We will use whatever it takes to make up for those 400 years. Freedom and justice will be brought in "by any means necessary". Malcolm used to say "An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth and a head for a head and a life for a life. That's a good religion and no one resents a religion being taught but a wolf who intends to make you his meal". Malcolm X knew that Black people must be prepared to fight those who want to deny us our freedom.

Throughout history, any man who has stood for the betterment of his people has been violently removed: It happened to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Marcus Garvey, and even Jesus Christ.

Malcom X stood for his people in spite of the opposition.

He preached the doctrine of "Black Nationalism" - Black control of Black communities. Since Black people have been in North America, our communities have been controlled by outsiders. Until the 1960s, Blacks in America have had no power whatsoever. Our people were not even allowed to vote. Malcolm X, along with other civil-rights leaders, pushed for our people to be given the right to vote - we wanted the ballot. Malcolm X stood up and told White America that they had better listen-up. If they wouldn't peacefully give us our basic rights to vote, then we would take those rights by force. It would be the ballot or the bullet.

And Malcom X was not afraid to use the bullet. He was not violent though. He said "We are not violent to people who are non-violent to us, but we are not non-violent to anyone who is violent to us.".

And now over twenty-five years after his death, Malcolms' words still hold good advice. Protect your own. When people mess with you, you mess right back with them. If you've got trouble in your neighborhood you've got to do something about it. And we're willing to help. Just contact Power to the People and we'll see if a little organized reaction won't help things. We want to hear from you!

Are you doing the right thing?

Did you know...

during the December 20, 1989 American attack on little Panama, some of the Panamanian troops that had fallen dead were thrown into the sea, while others were reduced to ashes with chemicals or buried in mass graves. The U.S goverment is trying to cover up the holocaust that had took place in Panama where thousands of unarmed citizens got killed; 98% of them black. All this to get one man; Noriega (who was working for the U.S goverment) This invasion was also used to test out the F-117 fighter plane which proved to be an all too deadly weapon against our people. The worse part of the holocaust was that Afro-American brothers killed brothers and sisters for a goverment that is based on white supremacy!

The white man sent our Afro-American brothers to Europe to kill his white enemies, then he sent them to Vietnam to kill the yellow man and now he sends them to Panama to kill our black brothers and sisters. When will our people in the U.S learn not to kill for the white man?????

by Dr. Keane

Power to the People is published by the Power Publishing Co-operative.

Submissions are welcomed. Mail to:

Power
942 Bathurst St.
Toronto, Ont
M5R 3G5.

WILL THE NEXT VICTIM PLEASE STAND UP

by Pasha McKenley

The reasons for Marlon Neal being shot have less to do with questions of racism on the police force, than with the reality of racism in our society today.

With Marlon's shooting we truly saw how the larger white society felt about us. Journalists like Christine Blatchford and politicians such as Metro Chairperson Alan Tonks used these shootings to express their racist views. They used the increased media attention surrounding Marlon's injuries to spread the doctrines of race hate to larger numbers than ever before.

Thomas Jefferson once wrote that "all men are created equal". Now, two hundred years later, we find that we are still considered second-class citizens. The police do not enforce our rights - they actually infringe on our rights. Our people are being criminalized. Marlon Neal was almost murdered simply because the racism in our society says 'if you're black...you must be guilty'.

Hatred for non-Europeans (non-whites) runs very deep in Canada. As I took a walk today a European man in a passing car yelled out "Paki!" to me. The irony is that I'm African, yet in his hate and contempt for those who do not look like him he insults any and everyone, regardless of race.

This kind of common, open racism I can deal with however. It's the hypocritical kind that does more damage. A smile in your face, and a stab your in your back. This is what plagues our people. When we bring up the issue of widespread racism, our liberal "friends" say "No, it's only on certain issues. You must have a chip on your shoulder." When Sophia Cook was shot, many said she shouldn't have been in the car; Marlon shouldn't have been speeding. Never mind that the fine for speeding is not execution.

We realize that in our society racism is everywhere. But some still believe that the police are immune to it. Are they not in this society? Didn't they too go to our racist schools and live under this racist government? So why should we feel safe with these armed racist patrolling the streets? They killed many and will probably kill again. It seems that the victims get younger and younger. As a mother that does not rub me well.

"So what," you say, "I don't know Marlon or Sophia. I didn't know Hansel or Michael ,Lester, Anthony, or Buddy. As long as it wasn't me or mine." Well look again. They were yours. Next time it could be you.

Greetings to...

ACSA (U of T), CSA (York), the Student Collective, ACC (Humber), Unity Force, Sister Vision, PAC, UJAMAA, Imhotep Foundation, Women's Collective (U of T), MACPRI, BADC, JCA, ANC, BCM, AAPRP, PLO, CFTA and all other freedom fighters.

CALENDAR

July 7 -Rally against the ROM. Noon-3:00 pm. Take Subway to Museum stop. Walk north. Lend your voice.

July 8 -Afrofest Picnic in Park. Morningside Park. Call 281-3508

July 12 -The CFTA presents "The Truth About Africa" with Molefi Kete Asante, Afua Cooper and Kobena Akquaah-Harrison. Central High School of Commerce, 570 Shaw St. (Ossington/College) 7:00pm - 9:30 pm. Donation $5.00. Call ACSA 978-6636

July 14 -Mass Demonstration against the Racist Ontario Museum. Cultural performances and presentations. All community members are encouraged to join. Noon at the ROM. Take Subway to Museum stop.